

Report of the Fremont School Board

As always, the community support, both financially and through many generous volunteer hours, has allowed the Fremont School Board to offer an excellent education to the students of Fremont for the 2011/2012 school year. For that, we thank all of you.

In March of 2011, the School Board welcomed newly elected member Andy Kohlhofer and re-elected member Sharon Girardi. The Board would like to recognize and thank Eric Abney for his service as an appointed member of the Board after elected member Nancy Bernhardt relocated to New York during her term in office. The School Board began the new session with the appointment of committee representatives and we then hit the ground running with a renewed focus on our School Mission Statement, the Strategic Plan and the development of our new School Board Goals.

In late spring, we made a decision to restructure the administration at Ellis School. Instead of two Principals we chose to streamline the leadership to one school-wide Principal and one Assistant Principal. With these changes in place, Ellis School students were welcomed back to school this fall by Principal John Safina, Assistant Principal Doug Totten and Special Education Coordinator Sarah Krebs. These individuals have developed very quickly into a cooperative leadership team under the guidance and direction of our returning Superintendent Mr. Bill Lander. We believe that Ellis School has a bright future and that this new leadership team is dedicated to offering a quality education to all of our students with intense focus on improved student achievement and success for every student.

We went through support staff and teacher negotiations this fall. The support staff negotiations were ratified by both the school board and the support staff and will be placed on a warrant in March. We were very grateful for the terms that the support staff representatives brought forth in which they have agreed to a two year contract without increased compensation. The support staff representatives indicated that the members understand the economic hardships facing our community. They communicated that they are thankful to have their jobs and enjoy working at Ellis School. We extend our appreciation to the support staff for their dedication and understanding.

Representatives of the Fremont Education Association together with representatives from the School Board and Administration worked tirelessly to bring forth a contract that they felt would be supported by the community. The School Board ratified the contract but the teachers did not. This means that there will not be a teachers' contract Warrant Article brought forth, and the teachers will continue their service under the last contract that was passed by the voters. We will start new negotiations in the fall. The School Board would like to thank all those involved in these negotiations for their time and efforts.

Our nation continues to struggle economically and we continue to see hardships here at the local level as well. This has been a special concern of ours as we work to fund the best education possible for the students of Fremont while watching every penny to be sure we are

spending your tax dollars wisely. The funding for the 2010-2011 school year allowed us to invest almost \$100,000 in our computer infrastructure and equipment while maintaining a fund balance for the year of approximately \$125,000 which will be applied to the tax impact calculated for this year.

For the first time in several years, we are proud to announce that we and the School Administration and the Budget Committee have been able to work together to recommend a 2012/2013 school budget proposal that we all agree on. Through mutual cooperation and careful review and planning we will be bringing forth a school budget that is level funded for the Ellis School and has a requested increase necessary to cover the Sanborn Regional High School projected contractual tuition costs. Superintendent Lander, Financial Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Principal Safina and Special Education Coordinator Sarah Krebs have been instrumental in developing this proposed budget. We wholeheartedly support them with their request for this year. We ask that the community do the same.

In closing, as stated earlier, the Fremont School District has a bright future with our new leadership in place and student achievement at the forefront. We appreciate the many dedicated volunteers, parents, support staff and teachers that enter our doors each and every day. Special thanks to the Fremont PTA, the Fremont FAA and the Parks and Recreation Department for the programs they provide to our school and community.

Respectfully submitted by the Fremont School Board,

Deborah Genthner
Sharon Girardi
Ida Keane
Andrew Kohlhofer
Jeffrey Rowell

The Mission of the Fremont School District, in partnership with the parents and community, is to ensure that students achieve their full potential through educational excellence in teaching. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to solve problems and think critically, both independently and working cooperatively with others. They will acquire a "thirst to learn", develop a strong confident character, show empathy for others and value community involvement.